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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Techniques for efficiently and economically providing data transfer through data networks are disclosed. The techniques are particularly suitable for Internet data transfers. In one aspect, delayed response processing is utilized. Requests for common content are initially queued. After a short period of time, the queued requests are processed as a group so as to better utilize available bandwidth, particularly in times where traffic or congestion is high. In another aspect, multiple-destination data packets are utilized.

Figure 2. *Phragmites* and *Spartina* coverages in the marshes of the upper and lower reaches of the Yangtze River, China, 1990-2000. The upper reach is the area between the Yangtze River and the Yangtze River Delta, and the lower reach is the area between the Yangtze River Delta and the East China Sea.